Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 00446 110956Z

20
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 /075 W
---------- 086714
P R 110911Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8257
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0446

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, NG, DM
SUBJ: FUTURE OF US-BENIN RELATIONS: FOREIGN MINISTER IN NIGER

REF (A) STATE 57761 (NOTAL), (B) COTONOU 439 (NOTAL),

1. HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT FORNMIN ALLADAYE FLEW TO NIGER MARCH 9 ON UNSCHEDULED VISIT. HE IS NOT DUE BACK IN COTONOU BEFORE MARCH 15, THEREFORE IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN REQUIRED ASSURANCES PRIOR TO DEPT'S DEADLINE.

2. UNDERSTAND FROM FRENCH AMB AND NIGER PERMREP THAT NIGER-BENIN RELATIONS HAVE BECOME PARTICULARLY STRAINED. AT HEART OF PRESENT PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMB, IS IGNACE ADJO BOCO, RADICAL PREFECT OF BORGOU PROVINCE, THE NORTHERN PROVINCE WHICH BORDERS ON NIGER. BOCO HAS REPORTEDLY UNILATERALLY FORBIDDEN IMPORTS FROM NIGER. ALLADAYE HAS GONE TO NIAMEY TO TRY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT MATTERS. ANOTHER VERSION FROM ZAIRE'S AMB IS THAT NIGERIENS HAVE BEEN DIVERTING EXPORTS (SUCH AS MEAT) WHICH TRADITIONALLY HAVE COME TO BENIN TO TOGO AND NIGERIA. THIS HAS BEEN DONE FOR PURELY ECONOMIC REASONS. BENIN HAS FIXED MEAT PRICES AT LEVELS BELOW THAT WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED BY NIGERIENS IN THE OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
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PAGE 02 COTONO 00446 110956Z

CHESHES

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Type: TE
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